



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **MAY 20, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

John A. Hammargren

Others Present

Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Sheriff's Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services

Staff

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montañó welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Mr. Alan P. Henry had nothing to report.

Internal Services Department:

Mr. Michael Henderson gave the following report:

ISD received 4,000 trouble calls and corrected 3,909 of the problems, which equates to a performance measure of 95%.

ISD janitorial services will no longer be used in Court Services.

Six (6) youths graduated from the "Youth Career Development Program"

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Margaret Ruiz distributed handouts and gave the following report for the period of April 16, 2009 – May 18, 2009:

- The grand total of inmate assaults on staff was 16.
- The total number of staff personnel injured was 10.
- The total number of inmates injured was 12.
- There was a total of zero (0) complaints by inmates regarding the use of force by deputy personnel.
- Safety issues regarding officers being required to walk a long distance to and from their lockers without their duty belt at the new jail ward at LAC/USC Medical Center are still a concern.

Commissioner Hall joined the meeting at 10:08.

Captain Asmus reported the following:

- The Long Beach Courthouse floors, walls and the restrooms are being repaired.
- Furloughs are being implemented in the Courts.
- Temporary holding cells for special handling inmates have been installed in Department 95 (San Fernando Courthouse). Temporary holding cells will be implemented in Pasadena Court to solve the issue of over crowding.

Department of Auditor-Controller: No representative was present.

Probation Department:

Mr. Michael Varela gave the following report:

- The “Success Is Our Future Graduation” will be held on May 26, 2009 at USC. Scholarships will be given to deserving youths during this event.
- Stainless steel kitchen cabinets will be installed on May 26, 2009 at Dorothy Kirby Center.
- Department of Justice is inspecting all Los Angeles County Probation Camps.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported on the following events:

- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Director, Patricia S. Ploehn, and the Children’s Law Center Executive Director, Leslie Heimov and other County Social Service Dignitaries honored the “Foster Care Awareness Month Heroes and Their Families” at a press conference held on May 12, 2009 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.
- The “Foster Youth Education Program” was recognized during “Foster Care Awareness Month” on May 12, 2009 on the North Steps of the State Capital in Sacramento. The Los Angeles County First Supervisor Gloria Molina along with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Pomona Unified School District, the Montebello Unified School District, the Los Angeles County’s Chief Executive Office, Casey Family Programs, and the Los Angeles County Education Council, spearheaded a pilot project to improve educational outcomes for foster and probation youth.
- The auditing of group homes previously conducted by the Department of Auditor-Controller has been transferred to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Ms. Barbara Butler gave the following report:

- The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department, Casey Family Programs, The Teague Family Foundation, and United Friends of the Children is hosting “Celebration 09, Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youths” to be held on June 4, 2009, at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- The reported number of physical abuse allegations was 14.
- The reported number of sexual abuse allegations was 8.
- The reported number of general neglect allegations was 8.

Chair Montañó and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of May 13, 2009, were approved with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó reported on one (1) news article:

- "Finalist Picked For Project To Replace Decrepit Long Beach Courthouse", Daily Breeze, May 14, 2009, regarding three teams selected as finalists for a project to finance, design, build and maintain a new Long Beach Superior Courthouse.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,275.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT

The Assistance With Alcohol and Sobriety Uniting Latinas Newsletter was received.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM MAY 13, 2009, TO MAY 19, 2009

Ettie Lee Home (Eccles) – 17, #4 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on May 14, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Bedroom #1 needs a mattress.

Alliance CDS – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on May 14, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Heritage Group Home #5 – 28, #2 – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on May 18, 2009, and no one was home.

Eggleston Youth Center – 16, #5 – Commissioners Bacio and Bigby

The facility was visited on May 19, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

San Gabriel Children's Center (Enid) – 52, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montañó

The facility was visited on May 19, 2009, and no one was home.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Davis
Commission Services Division